

REMARKS

Entry and consideration of this Preliminary Amendment are respectfully requested prior to or concurrent with calculation of the filing fees.

The present application is a division of predecessor application U.S. Serial No. 09/560,818, which, in turn is a continuation-in-part (CIP) of International Application No. PCT/JP98/04908. Accordingly, a cross-referencing statement has been added to the specification.

By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-33 and 40-58 have been cancelled. Claims 34-37 have been amended to place them in independent form by incorporating subject matter from original claims 1 and 3 therein.

Applicants respectfully request entry of this Preliminary Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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